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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.,

Case No. 5:14-cv-05344-BLF (NC)

Plaintiff,

V.

ARISTA NETWORKS, INC.

ARISTA'S OPPOSITION TO CISCO'S MOTION IN LIMINE NO. 3 TO EXCLUDE ALLEGEDLY UNTIMELY DISCLOSED WITNESSES

Defendant.

Date: November 3, 2016
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Hon. Beth Labson Freeman

Date Filed: December 5, 2014

Trial Date: November 21, 2016

REDACTED PUBLIC VERSION

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Cisco moves *in limine* to preclude Arista from calling two categories of witnesses. First,
 3 Cisco moves to exclude evidence relied upon by Arista's damages expert Cate Elsten. In
 4 preparing her report, Ms. Elsten consulted with Arista employees knowledgeable about the
 5 customers whom Cisco contends it would have sold to but for Arista's alleged infringement.
 6 Although Arista began asking Cisco for the basis of its lost-profits claim in April 2015, Cisco
 7 failed to identify any customer to whom it allegedly lost sales until June 2016—***three days*** before
 8 the close of damages discovery (and it continued to change the list after the close of discovery).
 9 Arista then identified employees who served the customers that Cisco had identified just days
 10 earlier, and Ms. Elsten spoke to those employees to gather information about those accounts to
 11 respond to Cisco's allegations. Thus, Arista identified these witnesses as soon as possible after
 12 Cisco identified the customers to which it alleges it lost sales. The "delay" is not Arista's, but
 13 Cisco's, which waited for more than a year after receiving Arista's discovery requests—until the
 14 final hours of discovery—to identify the customers it would base its damages case on.

15 Second, Cisco moves to exclude testimony by Rhonda Andrew, a paralegal at Keker &
 16 Van Nest LLP (counsel for Arista) who—if necessary—will testify about two summary exhibits
 17 concerning (1) Cisco's copyright registrations for the asserted CLI commands; and (2) material
 18 Cisco deposited with the Copyright Office for those registrations.¹ Her testimony should not be
 19 necessary, because there should be no dispute about the nature or authenticity of the underlying
 20 materials. But if Cisco forces her to, she will testify in the manner of a document custodian about
 21 the provenance of those materials, which Arista needed to compile from public sources because
 22 Cisco did not provide all of them in discovery. There is no basis to exclude this testimony. Thus,
 23 Cisco's motion should be denied.

24 **II. ARGUMENT**

25 **A. Arista disclosed witnesses knowledgeable about Cisco's alleged lost-profit
 26 accounts immediately after Cisco identified those accounts.**

27 Arista first asked Cisco to explain its basis for any lost-profits claim in April 2015. *See*

28 ¹ Ms. Andrew may also testify about the existence of publicly available documents stamped with
 a Cisco confidentiality designation.

1 Declaration of Ryan Wong in Support of Arista Network's Oppositions to Cisco's Motion in
 2 *Limine* Nos. 1-5 ("Wong Decl."), Ex. 18 (Arista's First Set of Interrogatories) at Interrogatory 15.
 3 Thereafter, Cisco repeatedly refused to identify any specific customers, claiming that it was not
 4 required to do so. ECF 306 ¶¶ 4-6. Cisco waited until *three days* before the close of damages
 5 discovery to disclose the specific accounts to which it claims to have lost sales. As soon as Cisco
 6 identified those customer accounts, Arista identified, and Ms. Elsten interviewed, employees
 7 knowledgeable about seventeen of those accounts, and Arista then identified those employees to
 8 Cisco through Ms. Elsten's expert report served on July 13, 2016.² Arista had no obligation to
 9 supplement its Rule 26 disclosures until Cisco identified the thirty customers to which it alleges it
 10 lost sales. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e)(1)(A). Moreover, Arista could not have done so, even if it had
 11 wanted to. Arista has thousands of customers, and it could not have predicted the ones that Cisco
 12 (in the final hours of the discovery period) identified as "lost sales" customers, as they include
 13 many customers who unequivocally did *not* base their purchase decisions on the CLI.³

14 Thus, while Cisco contends that it was unable to depose these witnesses or request their
 15 custodial documents, Cisco itself foreclosed that possibility by identifying its "lost sales"
 16 customers just three days before the discovery cut-off. Moreover, Arista long ago offered Cisco
 17 an opportunity to "cure the prejudice" of which it now complains. *Lanard Toys, Ltd. v. Novelty,*
 18 *Inc.*, 375 Fed. Appx. 705, 713 (9th Cir. 2010). Through Ms. Elsten's report, Arista disclosed on
 19 June 13 the seventeen employees at issue in this motion. Then, on August 1, Arista supplemented
 20 its Rule 26(a) disclosures to add Ariff Premji and Chris Summers—the only two of the seventeen
 21 employees that Arista intends to call at trial, as they serve the two largest customers on Cisco's
 22 late-disclosed list. *See* Wong Decl., Ex. 20 (8/1/2016 McCloskey email re witnesses); *id.*, Ex. 21

23 ² Cisco contends that Ms. Elsten also relied on Arista Chief Financial Officer Ita Brennan. But
 24 none of the cited pages of Ms. Elsten's Rebuttal Report references Ms. Brennan, and Arista does
 25 not intend to call her at trial.

26 ³ Cisco also cannot blame Arista for Cisco's late disclosure of alleged "lost sales" customers.
 27 [REDACTED]

28 Waiting until the final hours of discovery
 to identify those customers—more than a year after Arista requested that information—is exactly
 what Rule 26(e) seeks to avoid. *See, e.g., Calvert v. Ellis*, No. 2:13-CV-00464-APG, 2015 WL
 631284, at *2 (D. Nev. Feb. 12, 2015).

1 (Arista's Sixth Suppl. Disclosures). Arista explained to Cisco that it had identified these
 2 witnesses after the close of discovery due to Cisco's belated identification of "lost sales"
 3 customers, but that it would make them available for deposition after the discovery cut-off. Cisco
 4 never responded to Arista's offer—yet it now contends that it would be prejudiced by Mr. Premji
 5 and Mr. Summers testifying at trial because it "had no opportunity to depose these witnesses."
 6 Mot. at 4.⁴

7 **B. Cisco's damages expert relied on evidence derived from a Cisco employee not**
8 disclosed on Cisco's Rule 26(a) disclosures.

9 Cisco's motion *in limine* also neglects to mention that its own damages expert Judith
 10 Chevalier relied on an interview with a Cisco employee who was not disclosed in Cisco's Rule
 11 26(a) disclosures. *See* ECF 424-5 (Chevalier Surrebuttal Report ¶¶ 10, 52). [REDACTED]
 12 [REDACTED]
 13 [REDACTED]
 14

15 Therefore, to the extent Dr. Chevalier is permitted to testify at trial about her conversation with
 16 [REDACTED], so too should the Court allow evidence from Arista employees with knowledge of
 17 Cisco's "lost profits" accounts. Again, it was Cisco, not Arista, who delayed identifying its
 18 alleged "lost profits" customers, whom these witnesses are knowledgeable about.

19 **C. Cisco fails to identify any Rule 30(b)(6) testimony Arista has attempted to**
20 revise through Ms. Elsten's conversations with Arista employees.

21 Finally, Cisco argues that Arista cannot use evidence obtained from witnesses
 22 knowledgeable about its late-disclosed "lost profits" accounts to revise testimony of its Rule

23 ⁴ This situation is therefore not comparable to Cisco's late-disclosed witnesses, who are the
 24 subject of Arista's Motion *in Limine* No. 4. As explained in Arista's motion, Cisco belatedly
 25 designated those Cisco employees to testify on topics that Cisco knew were relevant from the
 26 beginning of the case. Arista, in contrast, waited until the final hours of discovery (and after) for
 Cisco to identify the thirty accounts to which it asserts lost sales, then identified the employees
 who served those accounts. In both cases it was Cisco who delayed, while Arista responded
 promptly.

27 ⁵ [REDACTED]
 28 [REDACTED]

1 30(b)(6) witness on damages-related topics, Anshul Sadana. Yet Cisco fails to point to *any*
 2 specific Rule 30(b)(6) testimony that Arista is attempting to revise. Arista has not changed Mr.
 3 Sadana's testimony, and does not intend to—though Arista will point out how Cisco and its
 4 expert have mischaracterized that testimony and taken cherry-picked snippets out of context,
 5 while choosing to ignore Mr. Sadana's explanations and clarifications.

6 **D. Arista's disclosure of Rhonda Andrew on its Trial Witness List is Justified
 7 and Harmless.**

8 Arista timely disclosed Ms. Andrew on its trial witness list so that she could testify, if
 9 necessary, about two of Arista's Fed. R. Evid. 1006 exhibits ("summary exhibits"). *See* ECF
 10 539-1 at 3 ("Rhonda Andrew," "Publicly-found 'Cisco Confidential' documents. Chart re
 11 copyright presumptions; certified copies of copyright office records."). Ms. Andrew's possible
 12 trial testimony will be to explain to the jury how she created these summary exhibits—both of
 13 which, in Cisco's words, "relates to issues that have been a part of this case since its initial
 14 filing." Mot. at 2. The first exhibit identifies the 198 CLI commands that Cisco registered more
 15 than five years after the first publication date—a summary of Cisco's voluminous copyright
 16 filings, which Ms. Andrew (a Keker & Van Nest paralegal) was forced to order from the
 17 Copyright Office. The second identifies the number of pages Cisco deposited with the Copyright
 18 Office for its software (IOS, IOS XE, IOS XR, NX-OS) and associated documents—again based
 19 on the certified files that Ms. Andrew ordered from the Copyright Office. Ms. Andrew may also
 20 testify about certain documents on Arista's exhibit list labeled "Cisco Confidential," which Ms.
 21 Andrew will explain that she printed from publicly available websites.

22 The two exhibits can and should be the subject of stipulation, as they merely document
 23 historical facts about the copyright registrations that should not be the subject of dispute. Thus,
 24 Ms. Andrews should not need to testify at all—and if she does, would testify only in the manner
 25 of a document custodian. As to the documents labeled "Cisco Confidential," the jury should not
 26 have to hear Cisco's arguments about both parties' possession of documents labeled
 27 "confidential," but if the Court denies Arista's Motion *in limine* No. 5, Ms. Andrews' testimony
 28 will confirm that the documents marked "Cisco Confidential" on Arista's exhibit list were all

1 printed off the public Internet.

2 Cisco contends that Arista did not disclose Ms. Andrew “as a person with relevant
 3 knowledge” and thus it did not have the opportunity to depose Ms. Andrew or to review her
 4 custodial documents. Mot. at 2. But Ms. Andrew would testify only in the manner of a document
 5 custodian. She has no relevant knowledge beyond these summary exhibits and documents she
 6 printed from publicly available websites, nor does she have other documents that Cisco could
 7 have collected and reviewed. Cisco cannot claim prejudice or unfair surprise. Indeed, the facts to
 8 which Ms. Andrew would testify are ones that Cisco ought to stipulate to with no witness
 9 testimony. Accordingly, Arista’s disclosure of Ms. Andrew on its witness list is harmless and
 10 Ms. Andrew should be permitted to testify at trial if Cisco forces her to do so.

11 **III. CONCLUSION**

12 For the foregoing reasons, the Court should deny Cisco’s Motion *in Limine* No. 3 in its
 13 entirety.

14 Dated: October 7, 2016

KEKER & VAN NEST LLP

15
 16 By: /s/ Robert A. Van Nest
 ROBERT A. VAN NEST

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 18 Attorney for Defendant
 ARISTA NETWORKS, INC.

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